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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEY COMMITTEE

Origin and Functions

The National Intelligence Program was initiated pursuant to National Security Council Directive No. 3, 13 January 1948; and the authority for the establishment of the NIS Committee derives from the NIS Standard Instructions which were developed to implement that directive.* The NIS Standard Instructions provide for a standing interagency NIS Committee, allocate responsibilities, and establish procedures for the conduct of the NIS program. They were approved by the IAC** and by the NSC.***

In general, the National Intelligence Survey Program is concerned with the collection, coordination, and publication of basic intelligence on all foreign countries and areas needed for high-level operational and strategic planning, national estimates, and policy determinations. Some forty agencies of the government participate in the program in accordance with their specialized capabilities. The Director of Central Intelligence has general responsibility for coordinating the NIS program, and the NIS Committee, acting for the IAC, performs the following specific functions:

- (a) Recommends over-all policies for the NIS Program for intelligence agency approval;
- (b) Determines the scope and treatment of each NIS to be produced;
- (c) Allocates responsibility for production and maintenance of NIS in accordance with the intelligence requirements, production capabilities, and dominant interest of the intelligence agencies concerned;

Filed NIS Program

- * See NSCID 3, para. 1 a, 13 January 1948.
- ** Memo from DCI to Exec. Sec'y., NSC, 13 December 1948
- *** Memo from Actg. Exec. Sec'y., NSC to DCI, 28 December 1948.

for use in IAC Handbook

- (d) Establishes NIS production and maintenance schedules based upon JCS priorities and agency capabilities;
- (e) Promulgates procedures and instructions for the preparation, review, editing, and submission of NIS contributions; and
- (f) Recommends to CIA measures necessary for the coordination of the NIS Program.

Membership

Present membership of the NIS Committee includes representatives from State, Army, Navy, Air Force and CIA. These agencies designate a member, and an alternate member, to the NIS Committee. This member represents and speaks for the Chief of the Intelligence Agency of the Department from which he is accredited. The CIA member is ex-officio chairman of the Committee. The NIS Committee has no standing subcommittees. Ad hoc subcommittees are set up from time to time to work on specific problems.

Reports and Publications

In addition to various sections of the NIS, gazetteers of standard geographic names are published as an integral part of the NIS Program. An active maintenance program is also underway of published elements of both the NIS and gazetteers.

Reports of all NIS Committee meetings are furnished to the members for use in implementing Committee decisions within their respective agencies. An annual report is prepared for the DCI and the IAC agencies by the CIA Coordinator of the NIS Program, who also serves as Chairman of the NIS Committee, on a fiscal year basis and usually carries a July date.

Meetings

Regular meetings are held by the NIS Committee bi-weekly, as a rule, and special meetings are called by the Chairman, or at the request of a member. Meetings are usually held at 1000 hours on a Tuesday at Harriet Lane Hall, 10th and Independence Avenue.